

NEWS FROM ED MARKEY

United States Congress

Massachusetts Seventh District

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HAS BUSH ADMINISTRATION GIVEN UP ON NORTH KOREAN NUCLEAR WEAPONS?

Markey questions Administration's sideways slide on nuclear nonproliferation goals

WASHINGTON, DC—Representative Edward J. Markey (D-MA), Co-Chair of the Bipartisan Taskforce on Nonproliferation and a Senior Member of the Select Committee on Homeland Security, today released a letter to President Bush seeking clarification of recent press reports indicating that the United States is prepared to accept a nuclear North Korea.

"Today's *Washington Post* indicates that the Bush Administration has accepted North Korea as the newest member of the nuclear club," said Rep. Markey. "That position would be counter to fifty years of U.S. nonproliferation policy. This sideways slide can only serve to encourage the further spread of nuclear weapons. It also indicates the hypocrisy of the U.S. engagement in Iraq versus the disengagement in North Korea: if you've got nuclear weapons, we'll leave you alone."

Testimony by Deputy Secretary of State Richard Armitage to the Senate Foreign Relations Committee last month included the statement, "our major fear is that North Korea would pass on fissile material or other nuclear technology to 'rogue states' or outlaw groups." This seems to indicate that the U.S. believes that North Korea already has nuclear weapons and will do nothing to either prevent a larger stockpile of such weapons or to remove them from North Korean control.

Rep Markey letter included the following questions:

1. Should the Congress assume that U.S. policy has now shifted from preventing North Korea's acquisition of nuclear weapons to merely containing those nuclear weapons?
2. If North Korea successfully acquires nuclear weapons and is not deterred by the international community, what are the implications for the spread of nuclear weapons to the rest of the world, such as Iran?
3. Why has the United States not followed the recommendations of the International Atomic Energy Agency and aggressively pursued this matter before the United Nations Security Council?
4. Given these most recent revelations, when does the U.S. intend to cease aiding North Korea in its quest for nuclear weapons by sending nuclear technology and expertise to that nation, under the guise of a civilian energy program which includes two light water nuclear reactors?

Rep Markey said, "Now that North Korea has gotten its hands on nuclear weapons, the Bush Administration has thrown up its hands. They are sending a signal to all countries and to terrorist groups around the world that nuclear and other weapons of mass destruction are an acceptable form of diplomacy for everyone except Saddam Hussein."

Copies of this and all other correspondence can be found at <http://www.house.gov/markey/>.

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